AN HONEST LETTER

TO A DOUBTFULL FRIEND,

ABOUT

The rifling of the Twentieth *part of his Eſtate.*

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TO HIS
MUCH ESTEEMED FRIEND
and Kinſman Sir H. W. at his houſe in *Weſtminſter*.

SIR,

THE indiſpoſition of my body hath confined me to my Chamber, we muſt now therefore diſcourſe by letters: your Petition for peace I ſee is not ſo happy as to find ſucceſſe in Parliament, at which while I wondred I began to conſider the reaſons, which are diverſe as the perſons oppoſing it. Therefore you muſt firſt obſerve the oppoſors, and then the reaſons will be evident. It is not fit the Houſes of Parliament ſhould deny the obedient Cittizens of London any thing, for that may be diſtaſtfull to the Citty; nor yet grant the Requeſt of the Petition, for that may be deſtructive to the Profit of many Members of both Houſes, and to ſome even of the Citty it ſelfe. It was therefore wiſely done of my abortive Lord Major & his Zealous Sectaries to attempt the ſtrangling of it in the birth, by Committing ſome that were active about it; their Reaſons are Reformation of Religion, that is, aboliſhing the Book of Common-prayer as Popiſh, though juſtified by the *Compoſers Martyrdom* under the Popiſh tyranny, but that will make way for their new doctrines and extemporary bablings, next the diſſolving of Biſhopricks and Deanries will repay the mony lent upon publique faith, for advancing the *Lords Warre*, (for ſo they miſcall Treaſon) & conclud that being *the Lords debt* it is fitteſt to be paid out of the Lords inheritance, then Biſhops being eradicated Elders may grow up and flouriſh as in *Suſannaes* dayes. And 'tis Conſiderable that the eſtates of

Malignants will be just rewards for the godly laborers in this harvest, all which will be lost by a beggerly accommodation.

Touching the Houses of Parliament, which consists of about 140 Lords, and 500 Commoners, of which not a fift part doe attend in their severall Houses, some being voted out, others committed for not conforming their Consciences to the sence of the House, and very many, disliking the proceedings and tumults, left the House & repaired to the King, with whom a greater part I am sure is then attend both Houses, being come to preserve their oathes of Allegiance which is personall to the King.

Take (Sir) but a view of such as sit and act the businesse in the Houses of Parliament, observe who among them have Commands and places of profit in and about this warre, then examine their small estate, with their great debt and charge, the rich profit of their command with their poor Revenew. You may find the Earles of *Northumberland*, *Pembrook*, *Rutland*, *Salisbury*, *Holland*, sitting in the Lords House; and in the House of Commons Sir *Edward Hales*, Sir *George Stonehouse*, Sir *Alexander Denton*, M. *Edw*, *Waller*, M. *Maynard*, M. *Thomas Cooke*, Sir *Thomas Hutchinson*, M. *Phillips*, M. *Ellis*, and others, all voting for Peace, to preserve the estates they have, not find them in the list of Officers to get maintenance. All men know my misled Lord of *Essex* lost the best of his estate in lost *Ireland*, and his whole debt, and great Accompt to his Nephew *Shirley* is to be paid out of a small Remainder, hath not my Lord of *Warwick* sould all he can, but yet his creditors take new promises for old debts, though he be responsall for 400000 pound *prout per accompt*? are the Lords of *Peterborough*, *Stamford*, *Say*, and *Brook*, necessitous? their debts and charge pressing? then their commands are double; both horse and foot. The Lords *Hastings*, *Rachford*, *Wharton*, St *John*, *Mandevill*, *Feelding*, *Gray* of *Grooby*, Sir *Hugh Chamley*, Sir *Samuell Luke*, Sir *John Mericke*, Master *Nathaniell Fines*, M. *Martin*. M. *Wingate*, M. *Walton*, M. *Cromwell*, Colonell *Venne*, M. *John More*, and others, are men whose credit (as appears by

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Screveners bookes) is as great as their estates, not invited to Commands by the profit of the places, but by their Conscientious zeale to the Cause, others of the Houses (least any water should runne beside their Mill) preferre their Sonnes, Brothers, and neere friends, to places and imployments of profit about this warre, as M. *Pym* his sonne *Alexander*, Sir *H. Mildemay* his brother *Anthony*, my Lord *Say* his sonne *Iohn*, and others other friends, while some men of the House have confest that the pay made them undertake the cause, and which of all these, save Sir *Ioh. Merrick*, knowes ought of his place but the profit? Nay many of them for the better service fight by their Lieutenants, as they pay debts by their suerties, and how many of them, save two or three which are taken prisoners, received a wound, or struck one blow in the late battells of *Edg-hill* & *Brainceford*, what hopes then that these men will give their Votes and 12 or 1500^{l} *per ann.* for a barren peace? will my Lord Major subscribe a Petition that shall take away his toll, 12^{d} for passes out of *London*? or Colonell *Mannering*, the crased Mercer, Captain *Basse*, the Lace-man, Captain *Mason*, the Button maker, Captain *Witherly*, the Pewterer, Captain *Capcote* the Broaker, Captain *Lee* the *Vintner*, with the Cunnyskin Captain in *Southwark*, and divers other Debt-compounding-Cittizens, their pay and protections against Creditors, and leave themselves nought but a Goale to live in? What can you hope for by your Petition that these men, and the like, can hinder?

Now surveigh the Popish and beggerly Lords and Cavaliers for and about the King, as the Duke of *Richmond*, the Marquesse *Hartford*, Earles of *Cumberland*, *Darby*, *Lindsey*, *Bath*, *Dorset*, *Bridgwater*, *Danby*, *Leicester*, *Devonshire*, *North-Hampton*, *Chesterfield*, *Bristoll*, *Westmerland*, *Barkeshire*, *Newcastle*, *Carnarvon*, *Kingston* and *Thanet*. The Lords *Mowbray*, *Mountague* of *Baughton*, *Dainecourt*, *Shandoys*, *Spencer*, *Gray*, *Mohume*, *Dunsmore*, *Newarke*, *Seymore*, *Capell*, and others; Then of the House of Commons, Sr *Christop. Hatton*, Sr *Iarvas Clifton*, S. *Guy Palmes*, S. *Iames Thinn*, Mr *Iohn Coventry*, Mr *Henry* and Mr *Iohn Bellasey*, Sir *Tho: Fanshaw*, Sir *Richard*

Lewson, Sir *Tho: Danby*, Sir *Ioh. Packington*, Sir *Ric. Lee*, Sir *Charles le Grosse*, Mast: *Catline*, Mast: *Holborne*, Mr: *Bridgman*; Mr *Chadwell*, Sr *Iohn Strangwayes* & his son, Mr *Iohn Digby*, Sr *Edw: Dering*, Sir *Will: Widdrington*, Mr *Venables*, Baron of *Kinnerton*, Mr *Rogers*, Mr *Newport*, Sir *Edw: Alford*, Mr *Whitmore*, Mr *Chitchley*, Mr *Edgcombe*, Sr *Iohn Stowell* M. *Crook*, Mr *Nowell*, Mr *Sutton*, Sr *Will. Oagle*, Sr *Wil. Poole*, & one hundred more then my paper will hold, men of understanding & known integrity, & which of all these whose age & health would permit, adventured not their lives and estates in this warr with the King? Now let's examine their Religiõ, and you shall find them dayly at Sermons and service with the King, hearing and practising the same Protestant Religion and Liturgy, that saved our Fathers, and hath been in our Church ever since the Reformation, and which we have vowed by the late Protestation to maintaine, then (no doubt) neither the King nor they are likely to bring in Popery, nor be Separatists.

That they are men of Estates the Counties that elected them (if not the Kingdome) knowes, and which of them hath any profit by the warre? which of them goes not himselfe and servants to the warre at his owne charge? Nay, which of them hath not otherwise in a large manner contributed to the maintenance of the Kings Army, & that without any Commands of an Ordinance; yea, even against the Declaration of the Houses? what would they and others then have done, had an Order of the Houses directed it as on the other side? By this then you see they are neither Popishly nor beggerly; Nor can have any reward or hopes of repaire out of the estates of the adverse party.

But they would induce arbitrary government: I pray what proofe is there of that? what one act hath the King done since the Commence of the Parliament that savoures of arbitrary justice? whom hath he distrained, committed, or turned out of the Towne for not lending? nay what hath he not done to assure us the contrary? Read His Declarations, observe his regall promises and protestations, and then

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tell me what Christian (that hath charity), or what man (that would be beleeved) will not beleeve him? Hath he not regulated the Councell-Table? damned the Shipwrits? suppreſt the high-Commiſſion and Martiall-Court? Nay, hath he not left all things to be tried by ſtrict proceedings of law?

Whom can arbitrary juſtice more prejudice, then thoſe now about and with the King? the Rich and wealthy men? ſurely then they will not be a meanes to induce that law that ſhall undoe, & inſlave them, their children, families & eſtates. Yet muſt we lend mony, ſend horſes, and raiſe Armes againſt theſe popiſh and beggerly Cavaliers. For 'tis not againſt the King that were Treaſon, and breach of our late proteſtation which is to defend His Majeſty, yet was the Kings Perſon in danger at *Edge-Hill* Battle, when the undiſtinguiſhing ſhott tooke ſome perſons even about the King; but God did then, and I hope alwayes will cover His head in the day of Battell.

Upon theſe Conſiderations, Sir, I cannot beleeve or feare the reducement of Popery or arbitrary Iuſtice; nor thinke my conſcience, perſon, or eſtate, tyed by the neceſſitous Ordinance of both Houſes (for want of an act of Parliament) to pay or let the twentieth part of my eſtate (which you know may come to three or foure hundred pound) be taken to ſupport a warre, wherein the Perſon of the King (which God forbid) may be hurt.

I am ſure that while God promiſed the Scepter to *Iuda*, he put the Law-giver betweene his feet, to let us know, That the legiſlative power is neither above, nor without the King. And I know the King by His Writs, doth call them to adviſe with him, not to reſolve without him. I will therefore keepe my hands from giving; and ſo preſerve my conſcience; I will faſt bolt my doores, and ſo preſerve my perſon and eſtate, untill a ſtronger then I come. For I had rather others committed treſpaſſe in taking, then I treaſon in giving. And I am ſure that both Armies are not on the right ſide, but one, with all their voluntary maintainers and abetters, muſt, without Gods infinite mercy, be guilty of the blood of all the men ſlayne on either ſide. I ſhall therefore, for my particular, beleeve and

follow the rule of the Apoſtle, to *obey the King*, *for He is ſet over us by God*; rather then runne with the new opinions and contrary doctrine of our militant Evangeliſts, Dr *Burges*, Dr *Downing*, Mr *Marſhall*, and *Sedgwicke*, whoſe conſciences ſtart out of the way at a white Surpleſſe, but never boggle at garments *rolled in blood*. There are other things conſiderable with us Cittizens alſo, as the returne of Sir *Faithfull Forteſcue*, Lievtenant *Colonell Wagſtaffe*, and my Ld *Eſſex* favorite, Captain *Scrimpſhaw*, unto the King; next the danger and jealouſie we are in, that even ſome of the great ones will follow, (for theſe are but harbengers,) and rather then come empty handed to their King, will make us their peace-offering.

Let's conſider the event of Warr, wherein we can yet boaſt nothing but our ſucceſſe at *Wincheſter*. But had we had the day at *Edge-hill*, and totally routed the Cavaliers, would that have determined the warre? I feare rather have called in all the Monarches of Chriſtendome to maintain Monarchy, and then were we ingaged, like the low Countreyes, in perpetuall blood. How great then is our ſtraight, for if we ſucceed we undoe our ſelves. If the King by victory, (or trechery of our Commanders) the labour's ſaved us then, for having refuſed his mercy, we muſt expect his juſtice.

I have now, Sir, unboſom'd my ſelfe to you my friend, let therefore my errors find a friendly reproofe, rectifying my miſtakes by your advice, which I ſhall take as Commands, returne you the thankefull acknowledgment of

Read and burne.

Your friend and Kinſeman
T. R.

Milke ſtreet London, 28.
Decemb. 1642.